



California State Fire Training

PO Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
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1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811
osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/training



National Recognition and Certification Examination

Candidate Frequently Asked Questions

PURPOSE and SCOPE: This document is intended to memorialize, in one location candidate related questions which have been posed to State Fire Training (SFT) regarding national recognition and implementation of the Fire Fighter I certification examination process and SFT's response. This document will be updated on a periodic basis as new questions are addressed. The information in this document is directed particularly to candidates pursuing Fire Fighter I (2013) Certification and, to a lesser degree administrators of an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) or Accredited Local Academy (ALA). Questions or comments on this document and the information it contains should be directed to Ken Wagner, Fire Service Training Specialist III, ken-wagner@comcast.net, (916) 425-2995.

EXAMINATION PROCESS

1. I am currently participating in a Fire Fighter I Academy delivered by an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP). We are using the new, Fire Fighter I (2013) curriculum. Will I be required to participate in the new written and skills examination process being implemented by SFT?

Response: During 2016 SFT will be rolling out the new skills and written examination process statewide for all ARTPs and ALAs. Once an ARTP or ALA has implemented the process, candidates will be expected to successfully complete the examination process before they can become certified. Those candidates receiving their training from an organization that is not an ARTP or ALA will be expected to participate in the examination process at an ARTP.

2. What if I complete the Fire Fighter I (2013) training and I only want California certification, not IFSAC or Pro Board. Do I still need to take the written and skills examinations?

Response: Yes. This examination process has been adopted by the State Board of Fire Services as a component of the Fire Fighter I certification process. All candidates must successfully complete the testing before applying for certification.

3. I have completed all my training under the Fire Fighter I (2013) curriculum and my required occupational experience. Currently, there are no ARTPs offering the examinations. Can I still get my certification?

Response: Yes, if you apply before June 30, 2017 you may apply for California Fire Fighter I. You may not, however, obtain IFSAC/Pro Board seals until you successfully complete both the written and skills examinations.

4. I recently took my Fire Fighter I written and skills examinations. I passed the skills exam but failed the Wildland portion of the written exam. Can I retake the written exam?

Response: Yes. Every candidate may retake the written examination, or a portion of the written examination a maximum of two (2) times within a one (1) year period. There is a form for this. Upon authorization, you will be required to retake the entire written examination for Wildland. All examination fees apply.

If you fail the examination after three attempts, you must retrain.



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5. I recently took my Fire Fighter I written and skills examinations. I passed the written exam but failed the skills exam because I failed one of the Hazardous Materials skills. Can I retake the skills exam?

Response: Yes. You should have been given two attempts to pass the skill during the examination process in which you were participating. You must apply to SFT and request authorization to retake the skills examination a second time. There is a form for this. Upon authorization, you will be required to retake the entire skills examination for Hazardous Materials. All examination fees apply.

If you fail the retake, you must retrain.

UPGRADE/RECIPROCITY

6. I received my California certification based on Fire Fighter I (2013) curriculum before the examination process was available. How do I upgrade my certification to receive IFSAC/Pro Board seals?

Response: You will need to successfully complete both the written and skills examinations and apply to SFT for this upgraded certification. Contact your local ARTP. Or, if you work for an ALA they can provide the examinations for you. There are fees associated with this upgrade.

7. I have a Fire Fighter I certification based on the older (2001) curriculum. I would like to upgrade to a new Fire Fighter I certification with IFSAC/Pro Board seals. How can I do this?

Response: SFT is working on a process to allow you to upgrade. We anticipate that we will have it in place before the end of 2016. As the process is established, information will be posted on the SFT website. There will be an application process with associated fees and SFT will review your training records. If you meet all the training requirements, you will be authorized to participate in the written and skills examinations being delivered by an ARTP, or an ALA if it happens to be your employer. We suggest you sign up for SFT E-News to stay abreast of the latest changes in this program.

8. I have a Fire Fighter I issued by another state and it has an IFSAC and/or Pro Board seal. How can I get reciprocity so that I can apply for jobs in California?

Response: SFT is working on a reciprocity process. We anticipate that we will have it in place before the end of 2016. As the process is established, information will be posted on the SFT website. You will need to provide certificates with IFSAC and/or Pro Board seals showing you are certified to Fire Fighter I, Haz Mat Awareness/FRO and Wildland Fire Fighter I. There will be an application process with associated fees and SFT will review your training records. If you meet all the training requirements, you will receive a letter from SFT verifying your status along with a Fire Fighter I Task Book. This will verify that you have met all of the California requirements with the exception of occupational experience in a California Fire Department.

If you do not meet all of the training requirements, for example you do not have a Wildland Fire Fighter I Certification, SFT will evaluate your wildland training and determine if you are eligible to participate in the California written and skills examinations for Wildland Fire Fighter I. If you are



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eligible, you will be authorized to participate in the written and skills examinations being delivered by an ARTP, or an ALA if it happens to be your employer. Upon successful completion, the aforementioned letter and task book will be issued. We suggest you sign up for SFT E-News to stay abreast of the latest changes in this program.

9. I have a Fire Fighter I issued by The Department of Defense (DoD) and it has an IFSAC and/or Pro Board seal. How can I get reciprocity so that I can apply for jobs in California?

Response: *SFT is working on a reciprocity process. We anticipate that we will have it in place before the end of 2016. As the process is established, information will be posted on the SFT website. You will need to provide DoD certificates with IFSAC and/or Pro Board seals showing you are certified to Fire Fighter I, Haz Mat Awareness/FRO and Wildland Fire Fighter I. There will be an application process with associated fees and SFT will review your training records. If you meet all the training requirements, you will receive a letter from SFT verifying your status along with a Fire Fighter I Task Book. This will verify that you have met all of the California requirements with the exception of occupational experience in a California Fire Department.*

If you do not meet all of the training requirements, for example you do not have a Wildland Fire Fighter I Certification, SFT will evaluate your wildland training and determine if you are eligible to participate in the California written and skills examinations for Wildland Fire Fighter I. If you are eligible, you will be authorized to participate in the written and skills examinations being delivered by an ARTP, or an ALA if it happens to be your employer. Upon successful completion, the aforementioned letter and task book will be issued. We suggest you sign up for SFT E-News to stay abreast of the latest changes in this program.

CERTIFICATION

10. Once I complete my training, certification examinations, task book and occupational experience what do I need to do to apply for my Fire Fighter I (2013) certification?

Response: *Once you have completed all of the requirements, you will need to submit all materials to SFT along with appropriate fees. You will need to submit:*

- *A completed Fire Fighter I Application Form with your original signature and the original signature of your Fire Chief (or his or her designee whose name is on file with SFT). Electronic or stamped signatures are not acceptable.*
- *A completed Fire Fighter I task Book with all JPRs initialed, and your original signature and the original signature of your Fire Chief (or his or her designee whose name is on file with SFT). Electronic or stamped signatures are not acceptable.*
- *Copies of all certificates/documents referenced within the application and task book.*
- *The fee for California Fire Fighter I Certification.*
- *The fee for National Recognition (IFSAC/Pro Board). National Recognition is voluntary.*

11. How long does it normally take to receive my certification after I submit my completed application?

Response: *The general processing time is 6 weeks.*



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12. Can I come in to SFT and receive my certification over the counter?

Response: Yes. *If you have all of the materials completed as described in Question #10 above, you may come in for over the counter processing. We do request that you call and make an appointment so that we are sure that someone qualified to process your application is available.*

ADVANCED CERTIFICATIONS

13. I understand that SFT is now accredited by IFSAC and Pro Board for Fire Fighter I (2013). When do you anticipate that you will be accredited for some of the more advanced levels of certification like Fire Fighter II, Driver Operator, Company Officer, Fire Inspector, etc?

Response: *SFT will fully implement our IFSAC/Pro Board accredited Fire Fighter I certification before seeking accreditation for advanced levels of certification. No decisions have been made as to which levels we will pursue next. Furthermore, all of the certification examination procedures developed for Fire Fighter I can be utilized for many of the advanced levels of certification, when they are implemented.*